



Department of Energy

Idaho Operations Office
850 Energy Drive
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401-1563

September 2002

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Ellis Merschoff
Regional Administrator
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 400
Arlington, TX 76011-8064

SUBJECT: Transmittal of the Idaho High-Level Waste & Facilities Disposition Final Environmental Impact Statement (DOE Idaho HLW & FD FEIS); DOE/EIS-0287F (INTEC-WP-02-055)

Dear Mr. Merschoff:

This letter transmits the Idaho High-Level Waste and Facilities Disposition Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), EIS Summary, or EIS in compact disk format.

The Department of Energy (DOE) has prepared the Final EIS in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and its implementing regulations. The State of Idaho participated as a Cooperating Agency in the preparation of this document. DOE will consider the information in the Final EIS when making decisions regarding the treatment of high-level waste and related waste streams as well as the disposition of associated facilities at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory.

DOE issued the Draft EIS for public review and comment on January 21, 2000, for a 90-day public comment period that ended April 19, 2000. After considering comments received, DOE modified the document to respond to comments, address additional technologies and alternatives, incorporate the results of additional environmental analyses, and update information.

The Final EIS identifies separate waste processing preferred alternatives for DOE and the State of Idaho. DOE's preferred alternative for waste treatment is performance-based, with the focus on placing the wastes in forms suitable for disposal. Technologies available to meet the performance objectives may be chosen from the action alternatives analyzed in the Final EIS. The State of Idaho's preferred alternative for treating mixed transuranic waste/sodium-bearing waste and calcine is vitrification, with or without calcine separations. DOE and the State identified the same preferred alternative for facilities disposition, which is to use performance-based closure methods for existing facilities and to design new facilities consistent with clean closure methods.

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If there are any questions concerning this EIS, its organization or availability please contact me at (208) 526-5583 or at kimmelrj@id.doe.gov. Also, any volume of the EIS may be viewed or downloaded from the Internet at <http://www.id.doe.gov>.

Sincerely,



Richard Kimmel
EIS Document Manager

Enclosure